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MEDICAL OFFICER'S INTERIM REPORT, 1939

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Rural District of LIMEHURST

INTERIM REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1939

Limehurst Rural District Council 1939-40

Members of the Council: Parish.

Councillor H. HOBSON, J.P., **Chairman**.....Bardsley.

,, **S. HOWARD, Vice-Chairman** ...Waterloo.

,, **J. COOPER,** J.P. .....Woodhouses.

,, **R. EARNSHAW,** J.P. .....Waterloo. (To December, 1939)

,, **F. BOSWORTH,** J.P. .....Alt.

,, **J. THACKER** .....Littlemoss.

,, **T. OLLERENSHAW** .....Waterloo. (From December, 1939)

Officials:

A. BROWN .....Clerk to the Council.

C. F. BOWMAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., J.P. Medical Officer of Health. (To Nov. 30th, 1939)

J. W. PICKUP, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. (From Dec. 1st, 1939)

R. THOMPSON, M.INST., M. & C.E., M.R.S.I., Surveyor.

W. DAWSON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., ...Sanitary Inspector.

A. HOWSON, A.R.V.A., ...Rating Officer.

H. E. TURNER, F.S.I., ...Valuation Officer (part time).

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector.

INTERIM REPORT

COUNCIL OFFICES,
200, OLDHAM ROAD, WATERLOO,
NR. ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE,
December, 1940.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Limehurst Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration an Interim Report, in place of the Annual Report, on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1939, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The progress of the Health Services in the District have been limited on account of the War, particularly with regard to housing schemes of clearance and overcrowding, and the re-housing of the working people.

The work of the Health Department has been greatly increased by the organisation, administration and maintenance of the A.R.P. Casualty Services for the District.

I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the ladies who have attended the Child Welfare Centre and have voluntarily tendered such valuable assistance each week.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Dawson for his unremitting and continued help, particularly with regard to the A.R.P. Casualty Services.

To the Clerk, Surveyor and other Officials of the Council may I tender my thanks for their continued assistance and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. PICKUP,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

AREA, POPULATION, AND RATEABLE VALUE.

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	No. of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value £	Product 1d. Rate £
Alt	1,132·724	272	3,132	12
Bardsley	883·076	553	6,858	26
Littlemoss.....	703·802	206	2,902	11
Waterloo	341·139	1,224	14,443	55
Woodhouses...	627·545	234	2,250	9
Totals ...	3,688·286	2,489	29,585	113

Population for 1931 Census (excluding Hartshead)..... 8,151

Population for 1939—

Estimated for purposes of Birth Rates 7,770

,, ,, ,, Death Rates 7,735

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of Diphtheria cases has again been rather high, particularly in the early part of the year.

No specific outbreaks occurred and there were no deaths.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

With regard to Ambulance Facilities the changes are as follows:—

For non-infectious and maternity cases the Ashton-under-Lyne Ambulance serves Waterloo Parish, and the Oldham Ambulance serves the Parishes of Alt, Bardsley, Littlemoss and Woodhouses. These arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

Infectious cases are dealt with by the Ambulance provided by the Hospital to which the case is sent. This constitutes no change from previous years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1939.
Notified cases only included.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all Ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS												Total Deaths. (The figures in this column agree with those supplied by the Registrar General.)	Hospital. — Total cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over			
Smallpox...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	11	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria, including Membraneous Croup...	21	...	1	2	2	4	1	5	2	3	1	...	...	...	19	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia / Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	8	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis-Lethargica		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	42	...	1	2	4	4	4	8	5	6	2	5	1	9	21	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5			2					
5—10			3				1	
10—15			1					
15—20	2							
20—25				2		1		
25—35		2				1	1	
35—45								
45—55								
55—65			1					
65 and over								
	2	2	7	2	0	2	2	0
	4		9		2		2	

Proper notification, prior to death, was received in each case of death from tuberculosis.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

There are no school clinics in the district. Under the County Council Scheme children must apply for treatment to Royton or Droylsden. Detailed plans for the erection of a School Clinic in the Rural District were well advanced but have been postponed owing to the War.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A welfare centre administered by the County Council at the Methodist School, Oldham Road, Waterloo, is now held on Thursday afternoon each week.

MIDWIVES ACT 1936.

The midwife allocated to the Rural District now resides in the district.

Her name and address:—

Mrs. A. Harrop, S.C.M., S.R.N.,
5, Ney Street,
Tel: No. ASH 2033. Waterloo.

SEWERAGE.

The report of the Consulting Engineer on the question of sewerage in the Rural District and particularly with reference to the non-sewered parishes of Alt, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, has been under consideration by the County Council and the Rural District Council during the year.

It is very unlikely that any of the recommendations will be put in effect during the period of the War.

BYE-LAWS.

Building Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936, were submitted to the Ministry of Health and confirmed in August, 1939.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

The Council is a Constituent Authority of the Oldham and District Statutory Regional Planning Committee.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS, for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Prosecutions (4)
Factories (with mechanical power)	34	...	...
Factories (without mechanical power)	22	...	...
Other premises under the Act... (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ...	...	...	...
Total	56	...	...

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Number of Defects: Remedied (3)	Number of Defects: Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of Prosecutions (5)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2)	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective.....	...	...	...	...
not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
Other offences ..... (Not including offences relating to home work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule of the Factories Act, 1937.)	3	3	...	...
Total	3	3	...	...

No returns in OUTWORK Section.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on sanitary conditions in the area and progress made during the year.

Essential and urgent work in connection with the Council's A.R.P. Scheme curtailed the time available for ordinary duties, but the more important sanitary work has received constant attention.

The re-housing sites in process of building have proceeded very slowly. However, ten houses were completed and occupied towards the end of the year.

I would like to express my thanks to all Officials of the Council for their continued help and valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
W. DAWSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Notices Served—Nuisance and Sanitary Defects.

No. of Informal Notices served during 1939 (concerning 86 houses) 56

No. of same complied with during 1939 (concerning 83 houses) 53

6 Informal Notices concerning 9 houses (served in 1938) were complied with in 1939.

NOTE.—A number of Notices in the form of letters were delivered in addition to the above.

No. of Statutory Notices served (for 21 premises)	4
,, ,, ,, complied with	4
,, Legal Proceedings authorised	Nil.
,, ,, ,, taken	Nil.

Three of the Statutory Notices were served for nuisances, and one in respect of several defects.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Total number of notifiable diseases recorded during the year	55
A tabulated statement is given on pages 5 and 6.	
Number of premises disinfected (houses)	30
,, ,, disinfested (for vermin) (H.C.N.)	24

19 Diphtheria cases and 1 Scarlet Fever case were accommodated at the following Infectious Diseases Hospitals:—

Manchester (Monsall)	17 cases.
Oldham	2 cases.
Hyde	1 case.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The question of the Council taking over the scavenging of the parish of Alt has been considered during the year but final decision was deferred.

There is now a total of 1,918 dustbins in the four parishes rated for house scavenging, as compared with the 171 dustbins in use in 1922.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, DRAINAGE, &c.

A tabulated statement follows of the totals of the various sanitary conveniences in the five parishes. From this table it will be seen that there are now only 3 pail closets in the parish of Waterloo and 27 in the parish of Bardsley.

During the year the following conversions have been carried out.

4 Privy Middens converted to fresh water closets.

4 Galvanized Iron Dustbins substituted for Middens.

6 Galvanized Iron Dustbins substituted for Ashpits.

The following is a list of recorded improvements, renewals, &c.

10 Entirely new Water Closets provided.

11 Entirely new Dustbins provided.

40 Dustbins renewed.

7 Pail Closets abolished.

6 Midden Ashpits abolished.

3 Closet Cesspits abolished.

7 Dry Ashpits and ground pits abolished.

18 Closet Pails provided, including renewals and conversions.

6 existing closet buildings reconstructed or repaired.

2 premises where drains were entirely reconstructed.

4 premises where new branch drains were laid.

2 premises (other than the above) where existing drains were repaired.

25 drain blockages cleared.

10 new baths (including those in new houses).

10 new lavatory bowls (including those in new houses).

15 new sinks (including those in new houses).

For new houses, fresh water closets are installed where sewers or other satisfactory drainage exist, or can be provided. All new houses erected this year are provided with water closets. The closet accommodation for 1,904 houses is on the water carriage system

TABULATED RECORD OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1939.

PARISH	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Galv'd Bins	Middens	Closets	Cesspits	Closets	Ashpits	Tubs, Boxes, etc.
Alt	66	22	204	65	11	19	12	13	45	1
Bardsley	367	206	27	456	6	7	3	6	27	4
Littlemoss	120	10	127	182	2	2	2	3	10	0
Waterloo	1037	269	3	1056	1	2	—	—	85	6
Woodhouses	29	1	234	224	1	1	1	1	0	4
Totals	1619	508	595	1983	21	31	18	23	167	15

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

No Public Slaughterhouse has been provided.

There are four Private Slaughterhouses in the District.

308 visits were made to slaughterhouses to inspect carcases and organs of food animals. 1,952 animal carcases and organs were inspected; 199 cows, 247 bullocks and heifers, 75 pigs, 11 calves, and 1,420 sheep and lambs.

102 condemnations were made, including the carcases and organs of three beasts.

83 special notices of slaughter and four special notices of disease received attention.

Numerous visits were made to places where food is prepared.

No legal proceedings have been taken during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHED AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 64 dairy farms in the District in the occupation of 61 cowkeepers all of whom are on the Register. The total number of cows kept is 1,090 approx.

In addition to the 61 cowkeepers who are also dairymen with registered dairy premises, there are five resident dairymen and retail purveyors with registered premises who are not cowkeepers, but buy milk in bulk and then retail it from churns.

Finally, there are 56 firms and persons registered as dairymen and retail purveyors who have no dairy premises in the Limehurst District.

Fees for the sale of pasteurised milk in the District have been paid by four Dairy firms this year, and for "Tuberculin Tested" milk by one firm.

Five resident dairymen and cowkeepers are licenced by the Lancashire County Council as producers of "Accredited" milk. Three of these producers are also licenced for bottling.

Structural alterations and improvements have been recorded at the following farms during the year

Brick Hall Farm, Woodhouses. A new steel framed brick cowshed, with asbestos roof, to accommodate 24 cows has been built at this farm. A new dairy building with separate milk and sterilizing sections has been constructed, complete with steam sterilizer. The drainage system has been completely reconstructed and a septic tank filter unit provided.

Diamond Hall Farm, Woodhouses. An eight cow shippon has been provided with a new drain and the floor entirely reconstructed in concrete.

Marland Fold Farm, Bardsley. A five cow shippon has had a new concrete floor, new window, new metal boskins and the walls have been rendered in cement.

During the year two samples have been taken of milk supplied to schools. Samples have been taken at regular intervals at the "Accredited" farms in the District at the instance of the Lancashire County Council. Altogether 29 samples were obtained and submitted for examination.

In one instance tubercle bacilli was found in the milk. This was reported by the County Medical Officer of Health to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as also was a positive sample taken at a school. These were dealt with at the farms by Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The total number of houses in the District at the end of 1939 is 2,489, mostly of the working class type. Average number of persons per house 3.12.

Number of new houses brought into the rate books during the year, 10.

Repairs have been recorded at existing houses during the year in 98 instances.

All new houses erected this year have freshwater closets, and water supplies direct from the public mains.

Ten new Council houses were completed and tenants installed during the year. Nine new houses are approaching completion, but progress is very slow.

This will complete the Council's present re-housing programme in connection with the Slum Clearance Scheme.

34 condemned houses have been demolished during the year. Many of these were vacated but not demolished in 1938.

No building has been carried out by private enterprise.

Overcrowding.

Five cases of overcrowding have been abated during the year. Two of the families were re-housed in Council houses. Approximately 34 houses are still overcrowded.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

All removals to Council houses have been done by the H.C.N. van removal process. 24 old houses were gassed with H.C.N. prior to demolition.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

All the 124 shops in the District were inspected during the year with particular reference to sanitary provisions and the health and comfort of shop assistants. In two instances structural improvements were made, one being improvement of ventilation and the other better facilities for ablution.

No action was necessary with regard to Offices.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A change has taken place in the Fire Brigade Services in the District. As from 29th January, 1939, the Rural District Council became the Authority responsible for this service.

The District is served as follows:—

Alt, Bardsley, Littlemoss and Woodhouses, by the Oldham County Borough Fire Brigade.

Waterloo, by the Ashton-under-Lyne Borough Fire Brigade.